

with many other colleagues in a couple of different letters to the President, to allow the mask mandate to expire a few months ago. So finally, I was relieved and pleased to hear of this announcement by the judge.

Our celebration was short-lived, however, as the Biden administration soon announced they would sue to try to repeal the judge's ruling and force back in place mask mandates for people traveling.

Science has repeatedly found that the masks are not nearly as effective at preventing the spread of COVID as they previously had thought. It really boils down to that government likes controlling people with this. They like scaring them. They like putting them in a box and saying, If you don't do this, you might die.

People, if they are forced into having mask mandates on public transportation once again, there is going to be a lot of anger coming out that no mid-terms or nothing else will save if they force this onto us.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6445) to amend the Small Business Act to require an annual report on entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6445

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 10 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—

“(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Administrator shall include in the comprehensive annual report required under subsection (a) the following data:

“(A) A list of all entrepreneurial development activities undertaken during the fiscal year preceding the date of the report through a covered program, including—

“(i) a description and operating details for each such covered program and the activities performed under each such covered program;

“(ii) operating circulars, manuals, and standard operating procedures for each such covered program;

“(iii) a description of the process used to make awards relating to the provision of entrepreneurial development activities under each such covered program;

“(iv) a list of all recipients of awards under each such covered program and the amount of each such award; and

“(v) a list of contractors, including the name and location of such contractor, of an award recipient.

“(B) The total amount of funding obligated for a covered program and the entrepreneurial development activities conducted under each such covered program for the fiscal year preceding the date of the report.

“(C) The names and titles of the individuals responsible for carrying out a covered program.

“(D) For entrepreneurial development activities undertaken during the fiscal year preceding the date of the report through the Small Business Development Center Program established under section 21 (in this section referred to as the ‘Program’)—

“(i) the number of individuals counseled or trained through the Program;

“(ii) the total number of hours of counseling and training services provided through the Program;

“(iii) the demographics of participants in the Program, which shall include the gender, race, and age of each such participant;

“(iv) the number of participants in the Program who are veterans;

“(v) the number of new businesses started by participants in the Program;

“(vi) to the extent practicable, the number of jobs supported, created, or retained with assistance from the Program;

“(vii) the amount of capital secured by participants in the Program, including through loans and equity investment;

“(viii) the number of participants in the Program receiving financial assistance, including the type and dollar amount, under a loan program of the Administration;

“(ix) an estimate of gross receipts, including to the extent practicable a description of any change in revenue, of small business concerns assisted through the Program;

“(x) the number of referrals of individuals to other resources and programs of the Administration;

“(xi) the results of satisfaction surveys of participants in the Program, including a summary of any comments received from such participants; and

“(xii) any recommendations by the Administrator to improve the delivery of services by the Program.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term ‘covered program’ means a program authorized under section 7(j), 7(m), 8(a), 8(b)(1), 21, 22, 29, 32, or 34 of this Act.

“(B) ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.—The term ‘entrepreneurial development activity’ means an activity related to the delivery of entrepreneurial development services, entrepreneurial education, or support for the development and maintenance of business training services carried out through a covered program.”.

SEC. 3. MARKETING OF SERVICES.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) NO PROHIBITION OF MARKETING OF SERVICES.—An applicant receiving a grant under this section may use up to 10 percent of their budget to market and advertise the services of such applicant to individuals and small business concerns.”.

SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION BY THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSOCIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “as provided in this section and” and inserting “as provided in this section,”; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and (iv) governing data collection activities related to applicants receiving grants under this section”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(p) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator shall annually submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on any data collection activities related to the Small Business Development Center Program.”.

(c) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND STUDY.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall establish a group to be known as the “Data Collection Working Group” consisting of entrepreneurial development grant recipients, the associations and organizations representing such recipients, and officials from the Small Business Administration, to carry out a study to determine the best methods for conducting data collection activities and create or revise existing systems dedicated to data collection.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Data Collection Working Group shall issue a report to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate containing the findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under paragraph (1), including—

(A) recommendations for revising existing data collection practices for the Small Business Development Center Program; and

(B) a proposed plan for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement such recommendations.

SEC. 5. FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COSPONSORSHIPS.

Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COSPONSORSHIPS.—A small business development center that participates in a private partnership or cosponsorship, in which the Administrator or designee of the Administrator also participates, may collect fees or other income related to the operation of such private partnership or cosponsorship.”.

SEC. 6. EQUITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

Subclause (I) of section 21(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(v)(I)) is amended to read as follows:

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section, not more than \$600,000 may be used by the Administration to pay expenses enumerated in subparagraphs (B) through (D) of section 20(a)(1).”.

SEC. 7. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 21(a)(7)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or telephone number” and inserting “, telephone number, or email address”; and